

the most important reason men and women come into the Armed Forces. We ought to praise them. We ought to recognize that and not forget it is still a very big reason people serve.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, again I thank the Senator. His statement reflects the comments I made in the meetings today. I do hope we can address this subject. I find it odd that many of the people who are raising the issues and talking about the commitments that were made in the war in which Senator INOUE and I served were not alive then, but they are telling us what the commitments were. We ought to make certain we fulfill all of those commitments, but we have to have a definition of what they really were.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, for the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators being permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BACKGROUND CHECKS IN 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last weekend, a new report was released by the Justice Department about the successes of the Brady Law. The Brady Law requires that a prospective gun purchaser undergo a criminal background check before obtaining any firearm from a federal firearms licensee. The law is intended to prevent felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited persons from gaining access to guns. The new information brought the number of purchase rejections up to more than half a million since enactment of the Brady Law in 1994.

According to the report, the number one reason for rejection was because the applicant either had a felony conviction or was under felony indictment. Of the approximately 200,000 purchase rejections in 1999, almost three-quarters, or 150,000 were denied for this reason. The second most common cause for rejection was a domestic violence misdemeanor conviction or restraining order, accounting for approximately 13% of rejections or 27,000 applications. Other applicants were denied the ability to purchase guns because of fugitive status, mental illness or dis-

ability, drug addiction, or state or local prohibition. In total, in 1999 alone, the Brady Law kept more than 200,000 guns off the streets and out of the hands of prohibited purchasers.

The Brady Act has been effective but its success has been undermined by a loophole in the law that allows criminals to purchase guns from non-licensed sellers. That loophole allows felons, fugitives or other prohibited persons to purchase guns at gun shows without undergoing background checks. It is a loophole often exploited by those with objectionable backgrounds, some of whose applications have already been rejected by federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies.

Congress made significant strides to reduce the level of gun violence by enacting the Brady Act, but now it's time to finish the job. Congress must close the gunshow loophole, otherwise the successes of Brady are weakened. As a reporter in my home state of Michigan said yesterday, "the same statistics that demonstrate the usefulness of the background checks that have been in place since passage of the Brady bill cry out for closure of the loopholes that allow criminals turned away by licensed dealers to purchase guns with impunity elsewhere."

I urge Congress to close the gun show loophole and stop undermining law enforcement's ability to keep guns off the streets and out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

(These names come from a report prepared by the United States Conference of Mayors. The report includes data from 100 U.S. cities between April 20, 1999, and March 20, 2000. The 100 cities covered range in size from Chicago, Illinois, which has a population of more than 2.7 million to Bedford Heights, Ohio, with a population of about 11,800)

June 8, 1999

Clarence Dorsey, 31, Oakland, CA

Daniel Estrada, 18, Houston, TX

James Holston, 32, Dallas, TX

Cesaley Howard, 25, Philadelphia, PA

Artis Ingram, 24, Seattle, WA

Larone Jackson, Pine Bluff, AR
Michael A. Jones, 25, Memphis, TN
Corwin Mathews, San Francisco, CA
Bennie McRae, 59, Miami-Dade County, FL

Cornelius McCurry, 19, Chicago, IL
Edwin Medina, 21, Miami-Dade County, FL

Bayardo Monterrey, 38, Miami-Dade County, FL

Rowland Patrick, 25, Nashville, TN

John Sandifer, 20, Chicago, IL

Patricia Whitfield, 50, Seattle, WA

Champagne Younger, 6, Seattle, WA

Unidentified male, 74, Bellingham, WA

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 7, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,645,678,929,300.91 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-five billion, six hundred seventy-eight million, nine hundred twenty-nine thousand, three hundred dollars and ninety-one cents).

One year ago, June 7, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,606,739,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred six billion, seven hundred thirty-nine million).

Five years ago, June 7, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,902,044,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred two billion, forty-four million).

Ten years ago, June 7, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,124,978,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred seventy-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, June 7, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,769,118,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred sixty-nine billion, one hundred eighteen million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,876,560,929,300.91 (Three trillion, eight hundred seventy-six billion, five hundred sixty million, nine hundred twenty-nine thousand, three hundred dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I recently had the honor to serve as national co-chair, along with Senator Byron Dorgan, of the National Selection Committee for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This wonderful program, sponsored in partnership by The Prudential Insurance Company of America and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes outstanding young volunteers at the state and national level. Two state winners, one high school student and one middle school student, receive a \$1,000 scholarship, a silver medallion, and a 4-day all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for themselves and their parents.